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*Madras Regional Board of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.*

* 500 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) who the members of the *ad hoc* Madras Regional Board of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation are;

(*b*) what the schemes of the Board are; and

(*c*) the names of the districts in the State in which the schemes are to be introduced?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) A list[a] of the members of the Regional Board is placed on the table.

" (*b*) The Regional Board is only an advisory body set up under the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance (General) Regulations, 1950. It has no special schemes of its own, but will render advice on matters placed before it relating to Empoyees' State Insurance Schemes for the region.

" (*c*) The medical benefit scheme under the Employees' State Insurance Act is proposed to be introduced shortly in the Coimbatore town and its suburbs in the first instance. It will be extended to other important industrial centres like Madras and Madurai in due course."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" The scheme was first adopted by the Central Government, I think, in 1948. Last year the then Labour Minister of Madras promised that the scheme would be put into effect as early as possible. Even now the Hon. Labour Minister says that the Government will implement the scheme soon. May I request him to put the scheme into effect very soon and to include Malabar in the scheme?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Ever since I took up this portfolio, I have been trying to introduce the scheme as early as possible in Coimbatore which has been chosen as the first venue. But so many preliminary things have to be attended to. The scheme will be inaugurated in Coimbatore on 26th January 1955. Then we will take up Madras and Madurai. Perhaps Malabar may come after that."

*State Handloom Committee.*

* 506 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of members of the Handloom Board; and

(*b*) how the Handloom Board functions?

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 673–674 infra.

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Particulars of the names [a] of members of State Handloom Committee and of the functions of the Committee are placed on the table of the House."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" ஹாண்டுலூம் போர்டிலிருந்து கைத்தொழில் நெசவாளர்களுக்கு தொகை கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. அதனால் எவ்வித பிரயோசனமும் இல்லை. ஆகையால் அந்தப் பணத்தை சர்க்காரே எடுத்து நேரிடையாக தாங்களே செலவழிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not admit that no benefit is derived by haidloom weavers by the arrangement that is now in vogue. But I may consider the proposal made by the hon. Member."

*States' griculture Ministers' Conference, Srinagar.*

* 509 *Q*.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government was represented at the Conference of States' Ministers of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Co-operation, held in Srinagar, on 15th July 1954;

(*b*) if so, the subjects discussed; and

(*c*) whether the recent fall in the prices of agricultural commodities was considered?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes. I represented the Madras Government at the Conference.

" (*b*) A list [b] showing the agenda for the conference is placed on the table of the House.

" (*c*) The answer is in the negative."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" இம்மாதிரி விளைபொருள்களின் விலைவாசிகள் எல்லாப் பொருள்களிலும் அடியோடு இறங்கிக்கொண்டே போவதால் அதைத் தடுத்து நிறுத்துவதற்கு அங்கே வந்திருந்த மந்திரிமார்கள் என்ன சொன்னார்கள் ? கோதுமை, நெல் விலை இறங்கிவிட்டன. அதே சமயத்தில் வெளி நாட்டிலிருந்து அவைகளை இறக்குமதி செய்ய காண்ட்ராக்ட் செய்துகொள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதைப்பற்றியும் அங்கு வந்திருந்த மந்திரிகள் என்ன சொன்னார்கள் ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is not worth while narrating what every Minister uttered at that conference. But I may tell the hon. Member that this question of preventing the prices of agricultural commodities from falling below the normal level is under consideration of the Government of India."

* SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" அங்கு என்ன விஷயங்கள் விவாதத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும் என்று 'கொடுக்கப்பட்ட அஜண்டாவில், நிலச் சீர்த்திருத்தத்தில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கக்கூடிய முன்னேற்றத்தைப்பற்றிய விவாதமும் சேர்க்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகவே நிலச் சீர்த்திருத்த முன்னேற்றத்தைப்பற்றி விவாதிக்கப்பட்டதா, அதன் பேரில் ஏதாவது முடிவு எடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றதா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 675–676 infra.
[b] Printed as Appendix III on pages 676–677 infra.